

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 03709 251101Z

11

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SCCT-01 PER-01 SCS-03 SCA-01

SY-05 USSS-00 A-01 OPR-02 FBO-02 FS-01 IGA-01 /072 W

----- 061852

O 251000Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4050

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 3709

JAKARTA PASS ASST SECRETARY HABIB

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS

SUBJECT: USAID COMPOUND

1. I SHALL NOT WEARY THE DEPARTMENT BY RECOUNTING THE NUMEROUS CONVERSATIONS WE HAVE HAD OVER THE LAST FEW DAYS AND EVEN TODAY ON THIS SUBJECT. AT LONG LAST SOTH PHETRASY (PL) MINISTER OF ECONOMY AND PLAN AND CO-CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT COMMISSION FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACCORDS CALLED ME AT 3:00 PM THIS AFTERNOON TO GIVE ME THE "DEMONSTRATORS" PROPOSAL ON THE SETTLEMENT OF THIS MATTER:

A. THE CROWD OF DEMONSTRATORS WOULD BE DISPERSED BEFORE THE USAID EMPLOYEES CAME TO WORK.

B. BOTH LAO AND AMERICAN EMPLOYEES WOULD BE ALLOWED TO RETURN TO WORK.

C. THE MIXED POLICE WOULD INSURE THE SECURITY OF THE AREA OUTSIDE THE PERIMETER.

D. FIVE OR SIX STUDENTS REPRESENTING THE DEMONSTRATORS WOULD REMAIN EITHER OUTSIDE OR INSIDE.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 VIENTI 03709 251101Z

E. EMPLOYEES WOULD BE PAID.

F. WE WOULD PROCEED RAPIDLY TO TURNOVER THE MATERIAL AND EQUIPMENT TO THE GOVERNMENT. DEMONSTRATORS HOPED THAT COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED, PERHAPS IN ONE OR TWO WEEKS.

2. SOTH ALSO SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD FORMED AN INTER-MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS WITH US THE TURNOVER OF MATERIAL AND EQUIPMENT. LAO EMPLOYEES WOULD REMAIN WITH USAID UNTIL ITS TERMINATION AND WOULD THEN BECOME EMPLOYEES OF THE GOVERNMENT. SOTH SAID THAT THE PAST SHOULD BE FORGOTTEN AND ALL THE LAO WANTED WAS TO END THIS PROBLEM AMICABLY AND CREATE A NEW FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE.

3. I SAID WE COULD AGREE TO THESE TERMS EXCEPT THAT THE STUDENTS WOULD HAVE TO REMAIN OUTSIDE THE COMPOUND. I SAID WE WOULD HAVE TO RELIEVE OUR MARINE GUARDS. HE SAID THAT WOULD BE NO PROBLEM BUT THEY WOULD HAVE TO LEAVE THEIR ARMS. I SAID I TOOK IT FOR GRANTED THAT WHEN HE REFERRED TO THE USAID COMPOUND HE INCLUDE THE DATT OFFICES AS WELL. HE MUMBLED AN AFFIRMATIVE. I ALSO URGED HIM TO PROCEED AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE BECAUSE WE WANTED TO BE ABLE TO PAY EMPLOYEES AS PROMISED TOMORROW BUT TO DO THAT, WE NEEDED TIME IN OUR OFFICES. FURTHERMORE, I COULD ASSURE HIM WE WANTED TO TERMINATE THE MISSION AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE AND I THOUGHT THAT THE PROBLEMS THAT WOULD ARISE WOULD BE MORE FOR THE GOVERNMENT THAN FOR OURSELVES.

4. IN ORDER THAT THERE WOULD BE NO MISUNDERSTANDING, HE SAID THAT THE DEMONSTRATORS WANTED AN AGREEMENT ON ALL THESE POINTS TO BE SIGNED BY THEMSELVES, THE GOVERNMENT AND A U.S. REPRESENTATIVE. I SAID THIS WAS FINE WITH US AND I HOPED HE COULD GET US SUCH A PROPOSED AGREEMENT TODAY. HE THOUGHT THIS AFTERNOON OR EVENING MIGHT BE A LITTLE DIFFICULT WHAT WITH TYPING AND ALL THAT BUT HE WOULD TRY TO GET IT TO US AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. HE THOUGHT THAT THE AGREEMENT MIGHT BE SIGNED TOMORROW MAY 26 AT 5:00 AM AND THAT ALL EMPLOYEES COULD RETURN THAT AFTERNOON.

COMMENT: WE SHALL NEED TO SEE THE AGREEMENT IN WRITING BUT I AM RATHER HOPEFUL THAT WE HAVE MOVED FORWARD ON THIS ISSUE AND THAT STEP BY STEP, WE CAN UNSNARL EACH PROBLEM AT A TIME
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 VIENTI 03709 251101Z

AND PROCEED ON AN ORDERLY BASIS TO AN ENTIRELY NEW MISSION CONFIGURATION. IT IS ALREADY EVIDENT THAT THERE WILL BE INNUMERABLE PRACTICAL DIFFICULTIES IN TERMINATING THE MISSION BECAUSE THE EMBASSY IS HEAVILY TIED TO SERVICES FURNISHED FROM THE COMPOUND, E.G. TELEPHONE SYSTEM, AND BECAUSE SOME OF THE BUILDINGS INDEED BELONG TO THE EMBASSY, DATT OFFICES, AMERICAN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, COMMISSARY, RESTAURANT, USAID HEADQUARTERS (BUILDING 101). NEVERTHELESS,

MY SENSE IS THAT THERE IS A BASIC AGREEMENT ON PRINCIPLE
AND THAT WE MUST SOLDIER ON STEADILY.
CHAPMAN

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